

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A snap-in roller assembly adapted for installation in a hollow rail of a ~~for patio~~ sliding door[[s]], the hollow rail having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface, the assembly comprising:

an outer housing having an outer surface;

an inner housing;

at least two roller wheels affixed to the inner housing to maintain the wheels in a fixed position relative to each other;

an adjustment mechanism which adjusts the inner housing to a desired position within the outer housing;

at least one retaining member incorporated into the outer housing, the retaining member comprising a base portion and an end portion, wherein the base portion is positioned at a first height that is substantially flush with the outer surface of the outer housing and the end portion projects away from the outer surface of the outer housing to a second height that is greater than the first height relative to the outer surface; and

at least one mounting tab affixed to the outer housing, the at least one retaining member and the at least one mounting tab positioned so that, when the assembly is installed in the hollow rail, the end portion of the retaining member engages the interior surface of the wall and the mounting tab engages the exterior surface of the wall, thereby retaining the assembly in the sliding door.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the inner housing is a pair of parallel plates each containing a slot therein that accepts a portion of the adjustment mechanism to limit travel of the inner housing to a substantially vertical path with respect to the outer housing.
3. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the outer housing is a pair of substantially parallel plates which overlie the inner housing and limits travel of the inner housing to a vertical path while substantially limiting horizontal movement.
4. (Original) The assembly of claim 3 wherein each parallel plate of the outer housing has at least one retaining member.
5. (Original) The assembly of claim 3 wherein each parallel plate has two equally spaced substantially collinear retaining members.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least one retaining member is a flared tab-like member that projects outwardly in a linear path from the first height at the base portion to the second height at the end portion.

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 5 wherein the retaining members are flared tab-like member that project outwardly in a linear path from the first height at the base portion to the second height at the end portion.

8. (Currently Amended) A snap-in roller assembly adapted to be installed in an aperture defined through a wall of a hollow rail of a sliding for patio door[[s]], the wall having a pair of opposing surfaces adjacent the aperture, the assembly comprising:

an outer housing having an outer surface;

an inner housing;

at least two roller wheels affixed to the inner housing to maintain the wheels in a fixed position relative to each other;

an adjustment mechanism which adjusts the inner housing to a desired position within the outer housing;

at least one retaining member attached to the outer housing, the retaining member comprising a base portion and an end portion, wherein the base portion is positioned at a first height that is substantially flush with the outer surface of the outer housing and the end portion projects away from the outer surface of the

outer housing to a second height that is greater than the first height relative to the outer surface; and

at least one mounting tab affixed to the outer housing and cooperatively positioned with the at least one retaining member so that, when the roller assembly is installed in the aperture, the at least one retaining member and the at least one mounting tab each engage a separate one of the opposing surfaces of the wall to retain the assembly in the lower rail.

9. (Original) The assembly of claim 8 wherein the inner housing is a pair of parallel plates each containing a slot therein that accepts a portion of the adjustment mechanism to limit travel of the inner housing to a substantially vertical path with respect to the outer housing.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 8 wherein the outer housing is a pair of substantially parallel plates which overlie the inner housing and limits travel of the inner housing to a vertical path while substantially limiting horizontal movement.

11. (Original) The assembly of claim 10 wherein each parallel plate of the outer housing has at least one retaining member.

12. (Original) The assembly of claim 10 wherein each parallel plate has two equally spaced substantially collinear retaining members.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 8 wherein the at least one retaining member is a flared tab-like member that project outwardly in a linear path from the first height at the base portion to the second height at the end portion.

14. (Original) The assembly of claim 12 wherein the retaining members are flared tab-like member that projects outwardly in a linear path from the first height at the base portion to the second height at the end portion.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of installing and retaining a roller assembly in sliding patio doors comprising the steps of:

providing a snap-in roller assembly for patio doors, comprising

an outer housing having an outer surface;

an inner housing;

at least two roller wheels affixed to the inner housing to maintain the wheels in a fixed position relative to each other;

an adjustment mechanism which adjusts the inner housing to a desired position within the outer housing;

at least one retaining member comprising a base portion and an end portion, wherein the base portion is positioned at a first height that is substantially flush with the outer surface of the outer housing and the end portion projects away from the outer surface of the outer housing to a

second height that is greater than the first height relative to the outer surface; and

at least one mounting tab affixed to the outer housing;

providing a patio door comprising a hollow lower rail with a lower wall having a material wall thickness, wherein a hole is defined in the material wall thickness for receiving the roller assembly and wherein the lower wall has an interior surface and an exterior surface; and

inserting the roller assembly through the hole so that the at least one mounting tab engages the exterior surface of the lower wall of the lower rail and the at least one retaining member engages the interior surface of the lower wall of the lower rail; and

~~positioning the roller assembly in the hole so that the wall thickness of the rail is captured between the at least one retaining member and the at least one mounting tab~~ to retain the assembly in its proper location with respect to the patio door.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the inner housing is a pair of parallel plates each containing a slot therein that accepts a portion of the adjustment mechanism to limit travel of the inner housing to a substantially vertical path with respect to the outer housing.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the outer housing is a pair of substantially parallel plates which overlie the inner housing and limits travel of the inner housing to a vertical path while substantially limiting horizontal movement.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein each parallel plate of the outer housing has at least one retaining member.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein each parallel plate has two equally spaced substantially collinear retaining members.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the at least one retaining member is a flared tab-like member that projects outwardly in a linear path from the first height at the base portion to the second height at the end portion.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the retaining members are flared tab-like member that project outwardly in a linear path from the first height at the base portion to the second height at the end portion.

Please add new claim 22 as follows:

22. (New) A sliding door comprising:

a hollow lower rail portion including a bottom wall with an aperture defined therethrough, the bottom wall having an interior surface and an opposing exterior surface adjacent the aperture; and

a roller assembly removably insertable in the aperture of the lower rail portion, the roller assembly comprising:

an elongate outer housing having a pair of opposing sides and a pair of opposing ends, the housing including a pair of mounting tabs and a plurality of selectively deflectable retaining members, each mounting tab projecting outwardly from a separate one of the opposing ends of the housing, the retaining members projecting outwardly from the opposing sides, wherein the pair of mounting tabs confronts the exterior surface of the bottom wall and the retaining members engage the interior surface of the bottom wall adjacent the aperture so as to retain the roller assembly in the lower rail;

an inner housing assembly in the outer housing, the inner housing assembly including a pair of rollers operably coupled with an adjustment mechanism, wherein the rollers are selectively vertically positionable within the inner housing assembly with the adjustment mechanism.